

Frequently Asked Questions for HCA Fall 2020 Restart

1. What is the HCA board considering to prevent being in and out of school and shifting between different models of learning?

Our current plan is not to shift in and out of models of learning throughout the colors that are represented for community risk. We plan to offer face-to-face instruction from the blue to the orange levels, unless we are shut down by a direct order from the governor or the Southwestern District Health Unit. It is most likely all schools would be shut down if our county or entire state is in the red level of risk.

We plan to function the best we can by maintaining segregation between classes. PE, music, recess, chapel, and lunch will be separated by grade level as much as possible or separated by social distancing when in large enough spaces. This will allow us to avoid exposure between classes and avoid schoolwide shut down when a case is present in our school. Afterschool dismissal will happen from the classrooms and not from one area. A plan for drop off is still being considered.

2. Do I need a doctor's permission for my child to come back to school after being sick?

No, it is not required when students are out of school due to non covid-19 illness. Parents will follow our normal school policy. However, if a student has tested positive for Covid-19, then parents will need to follow the directions and guidelines of our local health unit before re-entry into the school. Please see the following links for clarification on this topic.

https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/NDDoH_COVID-19_Recommendations_for_Schools.pdf

https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/Close_Contacts_in_School_Child_Care_Settings.pdf

3. How are daily cleaning and hygiene practices changing?

Our plan is to have our bathrooms and entryways washed and disinfected three times a day. Our classrooms and frequently used spaces will be cleaned daily. Our staff and students will wash their hands before and after PE and lunch and upon re-entry into the classroom. They will also follow the individual plan each teacher provides for their own classroom. Each teacher will have individual plans to meet the circumstances of their specific situation and students.

Individual desks (rather than communal tables) will be used whenever possible. Desks will be spaced at least 6 feet apart when possible and will face the same direction, rather than towards each other or the center of the classroom.

Classrooms will be encouraged to incorporate outdoor learning opportunities when possible and relevant.

Plexiglass will be installed on the front desk in the reception area of the school entry.

Touchless water/beverage dispensers are being installed to replace use of the water fountains. Water fountains, where the users' mouth is in close proximity to the beverage source, will not be used. Students will be asked to bring their own labeled, water bottles to school.

4. What are the guidelines for students and families who have tested positive or been exposed to Covid-19?

Please see the following link for clarification on these questions. However, please be aware that each situation will be acted upon on a case by case basis. Just because we have one, two, or three cases in the school doesn't mean we will shut down the entire building. The contact tracing conducted by the health unit will determine who will need to be sent home.

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/Close Contacts in School Child Care Settings.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/Close%20Contacts%20in%20School%20Child%20Care%20Settings.pdf)

[https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/NDDoH COVID-19 Recommendations for Schools.pdf](https://www.health.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/Files/MSS/coronavirus/School%20Resources/NDDoH%20COVID-19%20Recommendations%20for%20Schools.pdf)

5.) What if a student has tested positive in my son or daughters grade level and they were in close contact? Will my children who are in other grade levels be asked to quarantine?

No

6.) Will distance learning be available for students who are being asked to quarantine or self-isolate?

Yes, teachers are being asked to incorporate various distance learning options from day one of face-to-face instruction. This means that teachers will then be ready to assist students who are being kept home for precautionary reasons or any COVID-19 related circumstances.

7.) Is remote learning an option for families who would like to keep their children home because of underlying health conditions, family members who are at risk, or other difficult circumstances? Will there be a discount in tuition in these circumstances?

Although we know the vast majority of family's desire face-to-face instruction and a distance learning model as a last resort, we will consider distance learning as an option for families who have concerns. There would not be a discount in tuition. Tuition assistance is available for any family that applies and qualifies.